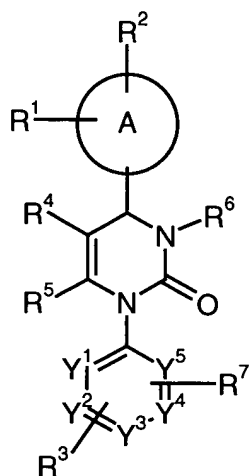


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~Compounds~~ of the general formula (I)



wherein

A represents an aryl or heteroaryl ring,

R¹, R² and R³ independently from each other represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy or C₁-C₆-alkoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

R⁴ represents trifluoromethylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkenoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₆-C₁₀-arylaminocarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl,

heterocyclylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, (C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, cyano, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and tri-(C₁-C₆-alkyl)-silyl, and wherein heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl can be further substituted with C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R⁵ represents C₁-C₄-alkyl, which can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkenoxo, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino, arylamino, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl and the radical -O-C₁-C₄-alkyl-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl,

or

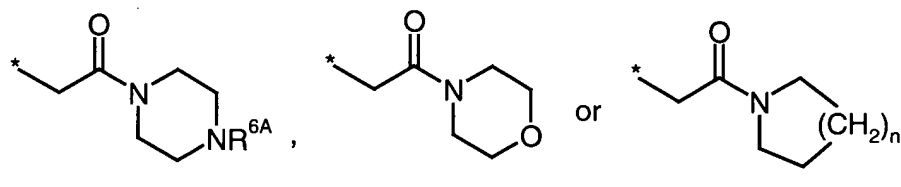
R⁵ represents amino,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, formyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl)-aminocarbonyl, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-aminocarbonyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, heteroarylcarbonyl or heterocyclylcarbonyl, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of aryl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, amino,

mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, tri-(C₁-C₆-alkyl)-silyl, cyano, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl and halogen,

or

R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein

R^{6A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₆-alkyl, and

n represents an integer of 1 or 2,

R⁷ represents halogen, nitro, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy or C₁-C₆-alkoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ independently from each other represent CH or N, wherein the ring contains either 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms,

~~and their salts, hydrates and/or solvates and their tautomeric forms~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof .

2. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to Claim 1, wherein

A represents an aryl or heteroaryl ring,

R¹, R² and R³ independently from each other represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy or C₁-C₆-alkoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

R⁴ represents C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkenoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₆-C₁₀-arylaminocarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and tri-(C₁-C₆-alkyl)-silyl,

R⁵ represents C₁-C₄-alkyl, which can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkenoxo, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino, arylamino, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl and the radical -O-C₁-C₄-alkyl-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl,

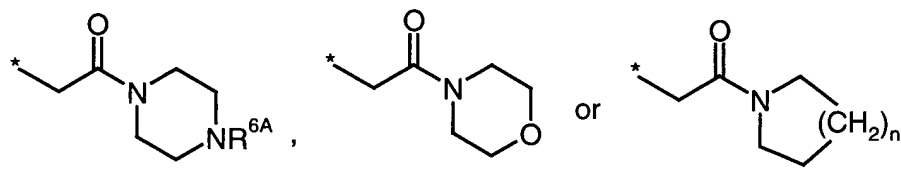
or

R⁵ represents amino,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, formyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl)-aminocarbonyl, N-(C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl)-N-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-aminocarbonyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, heteroarylcarbonyl or heterocyclylcarbonyl, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of aryl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, tri-(C₁-C₆-alkyl)-silyl, cyano, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl and halogen,

or

R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein

R^{6A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₆-alkyl, and

n represents an integer of 1 or 2,

R⁷ represents halogen, nitro, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy or C₁-C₆-alkoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ independently from each other represent CH or N, wherein the ring contains either 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein

A represents a phenyl, naphthyl or pyridyl ring,

R¹, R² and R³ independently from each other represent hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy,

R⁴ represents C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl and mono-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl,

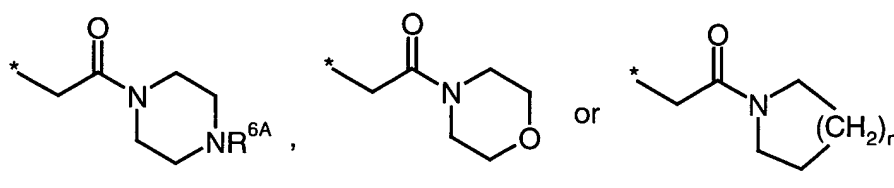
R⁵ represents methyl or ethyl,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or heterocyclcarbonyl, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl

and C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of heteroaryl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, cyano, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino,

or

R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein

R^{6A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

n represents an integer of 1 or 2,

R⁷ represents halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, methyl or ethyl,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ each represent CH.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to Claim 1 ;
2 or 3 , wherein

A represents a phenyl or a pyridyl ring,

R¹ and R³ each represent hydrogen,

R² represents fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro or cyano,

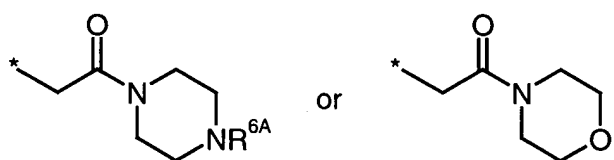
R⁴ represents cyano, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, wherein C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with a radical selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl,

R⁵ represents methyl,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, wherein C₁-C₄-alkyl and C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with a radical selected from the group consisting of heteroaryl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino,

or

R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein

R^{6A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl,

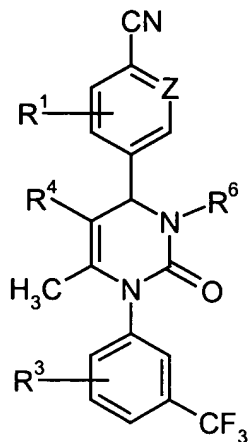
R⁷ represents trifluoromethyl or nitro,

and

Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , Y^4 and Y^5 each represent CH.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The compound~~ ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 4~~ , wherein A is phenyl or pyridyl.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~The compound~~ ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 5~~ , wherein R^1 is hydrogen.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~The compound~~ ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 6~~ , wherein R^2 is cyano.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~The compound~~ ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 7~~ , wherein R^3 is hydrogen.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~The compound~~ ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 8~~ , wherein R^4 is C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or wherein R^4 is C_1 - C_4 -alkylcarbonyl.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~The compound~~ ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 9~~ , wherein R^5 is methyl.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~The compound~~ ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 10~~ , wherein R^6 is hydrogen.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~The compound~~ ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 11~~ , wherein R^7 is trifluoromethyl or nitro.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (IA)

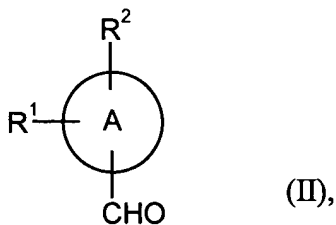


wherein

Z represents CH or N, and

R¹, R³, R⁴ and R⁶ have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 12~~ .

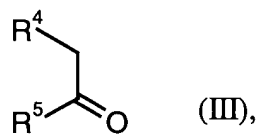
14. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for synthesizing the compounds of general formula (I) or (IA), ~~respectively~~ , as defined in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ by condensing compounds of general formula (II)



wherein

A, R¹ and R² have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ ,

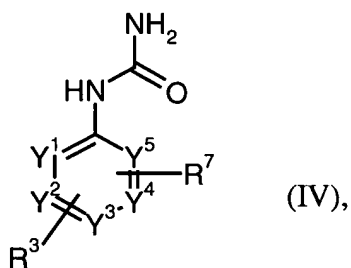
with compounds of general formula (III)



wherein

R^4 and R^5 have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ ,

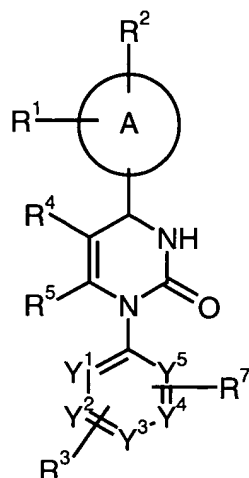
and compounds of general formula (IV)



wherein

R^3 , R^7 , and Y^1 to Y^5 have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ ,

in the presence of an acid either in a three-component / one-step reaction or sequentially to give compounds of the general formula (IB)



wherein

A, R¹ to R⁵, R⁷, and Y¹ to Y⁵ have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ ,

optionally followed by reaction of the compounds of general formula (IB) with compounds of the general formula (V)



wherein

R^{6*} has the meaning of R⁶ as indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ , but does not represent hydrogen, and

X represents a leaving group, ~~such as halogen, tosylate, mesylate or sulfate,~~

in the presence of a base.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ composition containing at least one compound of general formula (I) or (IA) as defined in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ and a pharmacologically acceptable diluent.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ process for the preparation of compositions according to Claim 15 ~~and 16~~ characterized in that the compounds of general formula (I) ~~or (IA)~~ as defined in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ together with customary auxiliaries are brought into a suitable application form.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~Use according to Claim 18 for the preparation of~~ ~~medicaments for the treatment of~~ acute and chronic inflammatory, ischaemic ~~and/~~ or remodelling processes, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of a compound of claim 1 .

20. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Use according to~~ Claim 19, wherein the process is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute coronary syndrome, acute myocardial infarction or development of heart failure.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~Process for controlling chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute coronary syndrome, acute myocardial infarction or development of heart failure in humans and animals by administration of a neutrophil elastase inhibitory amount is administered~~ ~~of at least one compound according to any of Claims 1 to 13~~ .